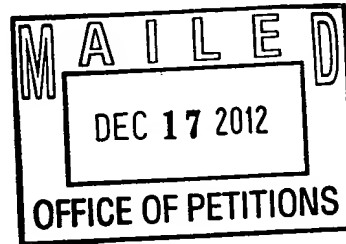




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Deanna T Ongwela
9231 Redbridge Court
Laurel MD 20723



In re Patent of Deanne T. Ongwela :
Patent No. 6,669,657 :
Issue Date: December 30, 2003 :
Application No. 09/665,608 :
Filing Date: September 20, 2000 :
For: Massage and Tactile Stimulation :
Device :

Request for Information

This letter responds to the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.378(b) filed September 28, 2012.

Petitioner should submit the requested information within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this letter. Extensions of time may not be obtained. No additional fee is due for a response to the instant request for information. The response to this Requirement for Information should include a cover letter entitled "Response to Request for Information." The failure to file a reply to the instant Request for Information will be interpreted as a desire to no longer pursue reinstatement of the patent and the Office will give no further consideration to the matter.

Petitioner has alleged the delay in payment of the 7.5 year maintenance fee was the result of an inability to afford the fee.

A proper showing of "unavoidable" delay based upon an inability to pay a fee must include a complete showing of the responsible person's financial condition during the relevant time period. In other words, the showing must identify and discuss the individual's income, expenses, assets, and liabilities during the relevant time period. The relevant time period in the instant case is the period beginning December 1, 2011, and ending on January 6, 2012.

The current showing of record includes a redacted copy of information concerning Petitioner's bank account from December 1, 2011, to January 6, 2012.

Each of the entries on the document for the time period beginning December 14, 2011, and ending December 26, 2011, has either been redacted or is illegible. As a result, the record fails to identify Petitioner's income or expenses during the time period from December 14, 2011, to December 26, 2011.

Petitioner has redacted the "Transaction Description" for each of the expenses included on the document. As a result, the document fails to include information pertaining to the nature of each of the expenses.

Petitioner has supplied copies of two pages of the bank account statement. However, the header on each of the pages indicates the statement consists of a total of five pages.

The Office requests Petitioner supply a legible copy of all five pages of the bank statement. The portions of the bank account, such as the Transaction Description, which are relevant to amounts deposited in the account, amounts withdrawn from the account, and the nature of each expense should not be redacted.

If Petitioner redacts any information on the statement other than the account number, Petitioner should identify the general nature of each item of information redact *and* discuss the reason(s) Petitioner believes the information is irrelevant to Petitioner's ability to timely pay the maintenance fee.

Petitioner should describe the general nature of each expense listed on the statement unless the nature is clearly from the corresponding "Transaction Description." The following are examples of general descriptions of expenses: Mortgage, Electric Bill, Home Insurance, Gas, Grocery Store Bill, etc.

A proper showing of delay based on an inability to pay a fee must address a party's assets and liabilities in order to permit the Office to determine the extent to which a party had liquid assets or non-liquid assets that could have been used to pay the fee. The Office requests Petitioner explicitly identify all assets owned by Petitioner during December 2011, which are worth significantly more than the amount owed for the asset. Examples of assets an individual might own that might be worth significantly more than the amounts owed include stocks, bonds, cars, home, and boats.

The Office reminds Petitioner that Petitioner bears the burden of proving the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable. Therefore, Petitioner should ensure Petitioner's response to this letter includes all the information Petitioner wishes for the Office to consider when determining if Petitioner's has proven the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter may be submitted as follows:

By Internet: A request for reconsideration may be filed electronically using EFS Web.¹
Document Code "PET.OP" should be used if the request is filed electronically.

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

¹ General Information concerning EFS Web can be found at <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/efs/index.jsp>.

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney
Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Brantley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Charles Steven Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions